United Nations A/62/156

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2007
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Sixty-second session
Item 100 (z) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Replies received from Member States	3
	Albania	3
	Armenia	4
	Bangladesh	4
	Bolivia	5
	Canada	5
	Chile	7
	Greece	8
	Jamaica	8
	Lebanon	9
	Mexico	9
	Panama	10
III.	Information received from international organizations	11
	A. United Nations system	11
	International Atomic Energy Agency	11

* A/62/150.

07-44098 (E) 170807 170807

International Civil Aviation Organization 13
International Maritime Organization 14
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 15
B. Other international organizations 16
Association of Southeast Asian Nations 16
International Criminal Police Organization 16
League of Arab States 17
North Atlantic Treaty Organization 18
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons 18
Organization of American States 19
World Customs Organization 20

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/86, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", the General Assembly urged all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture, and invited them to inform the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, of the measures taken in that regard. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

2. By a note verbale dated 16 February 2007, Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General of the measures taken, and to communicate their views on the issue. On 23 February, letters were also dispatched to relevant international organizations, including relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations, inviting them to submit contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General. Organizations that had reported their relevant activities in 2006 were invited to submit new information only in relation to what they had previously submitted.

3. As at 13 July 2007, replies had been received from Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Greece, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico and Panama. Their replies are reproduced or summarized in section II of the present report. Replies were also received from 11 international organizations; their replies are summarized in section III of the present report. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Member States

Albania

[Original: English]
[26 March 2007]

1. Albania, in the context of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), has joined with 55 other States in agreeing unanimously on a number of important confidence-building measures to increase security in the regional and subregional context. These measures include military agreements arising from the OSCE summit in Istanbul in 1999. Albania has contributed to all of these agreements by providing the information required accurately and in a timely manner. In addition, based on the Vienna Document 1999, chapter X on regional measures, Albania has consistently increased its participation in the bilateral agreements on confidence- and security-building measures in the regional and subregional contexts.

2. Albania aspires to ensure its basic security interests through active preventive diplomacy and enhanced cooperation with neighbouring and regional countries. It actively participates in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Stability Pact

for South-Eastern Europe. Albania also participates in other regional initiatives such as the South-East European Cooperation Process, the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial process and the Adriatic Charter, considering this participation a contribution to security in the region and further afield.

3. Albania's goal is peaceful cooperation and security contributions with regional neighbours and North Atlantic Treaty Organization partner countries, through such actions as multinational training activities and peace support operations. This is a contribution to regional confidence-building and transparency, through its openness regarding the missions and structure of Albania's military, and thus advances the goals of arms control agreements.

Armenia

[Original: English]
[16 May 2007]

1. The Republic of Armenia has a wide range of legislative measures in place to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including by individuals or entities. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (adopted on 5 June 1995), and more specifically its article 6, the ratified international treaties form an integral part of the Armenian legal system. In cases of contradiction with national laws, the international treaties prevail over national laws. Correspondingly, the pillars of this legislative framework are the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (the Armenian Parliament adopted a resolution on accession to the NPT on 24 September 1991, just three days after adopting a declaration of independence) and deposited the necessary instruments of accession with the depositaries of the NPT — the Russian Federation, as the successor State of the former Soviet Union, on 21 June 1993, and the United States of America, on 15 July 1993), the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Republic of Armenia signed the Convention on 19 March 1993 and ratified it on 27 January 1995), and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of 1974 (the instruments of accession were deposited with the Russian Federation and the United States of America on 7 June 1994).

2. The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted a new Criminal Code on 18 April 2003 and a law on export control of dual-use items and technologies and on their transit across the territory of the Republic of Armenia on 24 September 2003.

3. The Republic of Armenia does not provide any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Any such support is prohibited under Armenian law.[1]

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[6 June 2007]

1. There is probability of linkage between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction and

[1] Details of relevant national legislation and other international instruments and arrangements to which Armenia is a party are available for review in the Office for Disarmament Affairs upon request.

their means of delivery to create anarchy and disturb the peace of the nations. Bangladesh is aware of the situation and extends full support to the resolution.

2. Bangladesh is against the possession of weapons of mass destruction and acquisition of the methods of their use by terrorists. Bangladesh would take a stand against any country or organization that might assist terrorists in acquiring weapons of mass destruction or provide terrorists with the manufacturing technology.

Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[25 June 2007]

Analysis

1. Bolivia signed the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials on 14 November 1997 and ratified it on 26 November 1998 by Act No. 1915.

Within the framework of this instrument, it has participated in various events and meetings at the invitation of the international organization in question.

2. With regard to measures taken to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, Bolivia, despite the fact that its law on weapons is still awaiting approval, is making provision for a national arms registry and has established a database for the exchange of information on conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction through focal points.

3. Bolivia, through the War Materiel Department of the Ministry of Defence, has a database of companies authorized to trade in conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

Conclusions

4. Bolivia, as a State Member of the United Nations, needs to have weapons legislation in support of activities under the disarmament plan and in compliance with international agreements.

5. The National Technical Secretariat is unable to comment further owing to a lack of background documents and information with which to back up its opinion.

Canada

[Original: English]
[18 July 2007]

1. Canada took the following measures to strengthen national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

2. Canada has a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework to help prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from accessing weapons of mass destruction and related materials. Details can be found in Canada's reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). Canada has a comprehensive export control system, which ensures that transfers of controlled goods and technologies are not diverted to weapons of mass destruction programmes or delivery systems. Canada is an active member in all multilateral export control regimes.

3. Canada's national security is closely affected by events beyond its borders. In 2002, under Canada's leadership, the Group of Eight launched the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, aimed at preventing terrorists and countries of proliferation concern from acquiring weapons and materials of mass destruction and the related know-how. Canada has committed up to C$ 1 billion over 10 years. Focusing on the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the former Soviet Union, Canada is actively engaged in the destruction of chemical weapons, the dismantlement of nuclear submarines, nuclear and radiological security, the redirection of former weapons scientists and biological non-proliferation. Canada is also cooperating with bilateral partners such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and through international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

4. Canada is an active participant in the Proliferation Security Initiative, which aims to help prevent trafficking in weapons of mass destruction and related material, as well as their means of delivery. The Initiative can be regarded as an integral part of implementation of paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). In October 2006, Canada joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism as an initial partner nation. This multilateral initiative focuses on operation-level cooperation aimed at strengthening implementation of international norms and standards to counter nuclear and radiological terrorism. Under the Global Initiative workplan, Canada has offered to host a workshop in early 2008 on securing radioactive sources.

5. Canada made important contributions to the successful diplomatic conferences to amend the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) in July 2005. Canada is considering ratification of the 2005 Protocols to the 1988 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and its Protocol on fixed platforms. Canada's Nuclear Security Regulations, pursuant to the Nuclear Safety and Control Act, have been amended and will be promulgated in the summer of 2006. These amendments incorporate and reflect the principles outlined in the CPPNM amendment.

6. Canada signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism when it opened in September 2005, and is working towards its ratification.

7. As a Participating Government of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Canada has actively pursued amendments to strengthen the NSG Guidelines. Canada is also a member of the Zangger Committee, the role of which is to interpret States' obligations pursuant to article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Canada is also a participant in the Wassenaar Arrangement.

8. Canada has affirmed its commitment to the objectives of the IAEA Code of Conduct for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and has indicated that it will work towards full implementation of the provisions of the Code, including the associated guidance on import and export controls of radioactive sources. As part of this commitment, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission implemented in January 2006 a sealed source tracking system as part of its National Sealed Source Registry, designed to track high-risk radioactive sources from cradle to grave. In December 2005, Canada funded a successful IAEA workshop on the implementation of the IAEA Code of Conduct for the Russian-speaking region.

9. In 2004, the Canadian Parliament passed the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Implementation Act. This measure will function to make it more difficult for terrorists to acquire and/or use biological weapons. The Act is framework legislation, streamlining existing laws that deal peripherally with biological weapons issues, providing a more complete legal basis for the regulation of dual-use biological agents, and establishing stricter penalties for contraventions of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

10. Canada prevents acquisition by terrorists of chemicals that could be used in weapons of mass destruction by its strict licensing requirements. In this manner, licences are required for the production, use, acquisition and stockpiling of schedule 1 chemicals. For the transfer, production and use of schedule 2 chemicals, declarations are required.

11. In 2005, the Government of Canada released its chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) strategy. The strategy focuses on prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from CBRN terrorist events and includes provisions to keep CBRN-related materials out of the possession of terrorists.

12. In January 2004, the Government of Canada established the National Risk Assessment Centre within Canada Border Services Agency. The Centre increases Canada's ability to detect and stop the movement of high-risk people and goods into the country. Canada Border Services Agency is implementing a radiation detection programme at Canada's busiest ports to screen all marine containers for illicit radioactive material.

13. Canada's counter-terrorism capacity-building programme has provided Canadian expertise and significant resources to develop States' capacity to counter terrorism in seven priority areas directly related to the spirit of the General Assembly resolution.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2007]

1. Chile supports international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

2. Consultations are under way with the relevant national authorities with a view to ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which was opened for signature by States on 14 September 2005, and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 8 July 2005. It should be noted that Chile has helped to strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism by ratifying the 12 relevant United Nations conventions and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

3. Chile considers that Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on weapons of mass destruction, non-State actors and terrorism supports effective compliance with international instruments on weapons of mass destruction and, in turn, constitutes an appropriate means of implementing them. Chile reiterates its willingness to

contribute to the success of the resolution and to cooperate effectively with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

4. Chile has also maintained a special interest in the establishment of an international standards regime for the multilateral regulation of the transport of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste by sea. Chile has acceded to the international legal instruments relating to nuclear safety.

5. Lastly, within the framework of the Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance programme promoted by the United States of America, a meeting of experts from the United States and Chile on export control and border security for the prevention of illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction and related materials took place in Santiago on 18 and 19 April 2007.

Greece

[Original: English]
[4 May 2007]

Greece has ratified all 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols relating to counter-terrorism and has introduced enabling legislation to bring these instruments into force in Greece. Following is a selection of these conventions:

- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials, signed at Vienna on 3 March 1980 (Law 1636/1986, Official Gazette 106 A787/1986), entered into force on 6 October 1991
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1999 (Law 3034/2002, Official Gazette 168 A/19-7-2002), entered into force on 6 May 2004
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 1997 (Law 3116/2003), entered into force on 26 June 2003
- Law 92/1967 also provides the framework, under the Greek legal system, for putting into effect relevant Security Council resolutions, which imposes penalties for violations of these resolutions
- In addition, acts and offences related to explosives, weapons, ammunition and explosive devices, and chemical weapons are considered punishable as terrorist acts, in accordance with articles 187 and 187A of the Penal Code, when committed under specific circumstances set out in these articles.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[18 April 2007]

1. With the passage of the Terrorism Prevention Act in 2005, Jamaica has moved to strengthen its borders from possible use and penetration by terrorists.

2. Though not a manufacturer, producer or consumer of chemical, nuclear or biological weapons, Jamaica nonetheless continues to implement measures aimed at strengthening its law enforcement capacity and capabilities, improve its laws, inclusive of amendments to the Firearms Act and recommendations to amend the

Gunpowder and Explosives Act, designed to protect the country's borders from import, export, transit and trans-shipment of all arms, ammunition and explosives through the air and sea ports.

3. The Organization of American States, through the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, continues to provide training in the area of counter-terrorism, including training in the detection of money-laundering, fraudulent documents and passenger trafficking, to Jamaica's law enforcement officers, to further bolster their skills and capacities.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[18 April 2007]

In response to your note verbale on the above subject, the Ministry of National Defence indicates that Lebanon confirms that:

- It does not possess weapons of mass destruction and abides by the United Nations resolutions which prevent terrorists from using or obtaining such weapons;
- It is developing laws and regulations to enable the monitoring of the export, transit and cross-border carriage of and the prevention of trafficking in any type of weapons and pursues terrorists, should there be any, in particular as Lebanese law does not allow the sheltering of terrorists;
- It encourages closer international cooperation, participates in international efforts to combat terrorism and is formulating the necessary legislation and strict deterrent regulations in order to control, monitor and pursue terrorists, should there be any.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[11 May 2007]

1. Mexico is taking firm action to eliminate the danger posed by the possible acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by terrorist groups. Mexico believes that progress towards the goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction constitutes an effective means of reducing the risk of proliferation, since that which does not exist cannot proliferate.

2. In that spirit, Mexico is fully implementing resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which was adopted by the Security Council on 28 April 2004, and, although it has submitted two reports on that subject, is maintaining its efforts to comply with the resolution and remains committed to providing relevant new information as required.

3. At the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, Mexico emphasized that worsening nuclear dangers had created an urgent and imperative need to strengthen and reactivate the multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation system so as to build a safer world. Therefore, any action aimed at reinvigorating that multilateral system will create greater certainty with respect to the destination and use of weapons of mass destruction.

4. Mexico is continuing to amend its national legislation so as to be able to ratify as soon as possible the additional protocol to its safeguards agreements with IAEA, which was signed on 29 March 2004. In addition, national law establishes that nuclear energy shall be used only for peaceful purposes, and the national registration and control system is aimed at ensuring transparency and confidence in the fact that transfers in this area are carried out for civilian purposes.

5. On 15 and 16 February 2007, during a visit to Mexico City by the Nuclear Suppliers Group troika (Norway, Brazil and South Africa), the Mexican Government formally expressed its interest in requesting membership of the Group. Mexico aims thereby to make an additional contribution to the international community's efforts for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through controls on the export of nuclear and dual-use material, equipment and technology.

6. In addition, on 27 June 2006, Mexico deposited at United Nations Headquarters its instrument of ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which will serve to prevent terrorist groups from gaining access to nuclear weapons. Having taken this step, Mexico is advocating the adoption of a number of obligations to ensure that States take all the necessary measures to investigate, prosecute or extradite those responsible for acts of nuclear terrorism.

7. Moreover, with a view to complying fully with the obligations set out in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, Mexico is preparing to submit to the legislature a preliminary draft federal law on the control of chemicals that could be diverted for the manufacture of chemical weapons, which enforces the Convention.

8. Mexico reiterates that it is essential to encourage, as a matter of urgency, comprehensive non-proliferation measures aimed at effectively curbing and eliminating horizontal and vertical proliferation (refinement) of weapons of mass destruction.

9. Mexico reaffirms its commitment to the cause of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, having promoted initiatives to that end at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (held in Vienna, Austria, from 30 April to 11 May 2007), with a view to eliminating the threat of these weapons falling into the hands of terrorists.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2007]

The Republic of Panama has developed a vision of security, emphasizing the security of global transport and trade, through the adoption of the Panamanian initiative for secure trade and transport as a means of reducing the threat from international organized crime and terrorism in their various forms. This involves programmes for the non-intrusive inspection of containers to detect illicit trafficking in dual-use goods and materials intended for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

III. Information received from international organizations

The summaries in the present section, describing measures taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, are based on the replies received from the respective organizations. Full versions of the inputs are available from the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat.

A. United Nations system

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[13 June 2007]

1. The responsibility for nuclear security rests entirely with each individual State. International legal instruments provide a strategic framework and a common platform for States to work together to enhance their collective nuclear security. A new international nuclear security framework is emerging based on obligations contained in the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its Amendment, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the non-binding Code of Conduct for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. The obligations in safeguards agreements are part of this framework. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is facing a considerable challenge in helping form the national and international response to these instruments and in supporting States' implementation efforts. The Agency facilitates the development of guidance and recommendations appropriate to the implementation by States of these instruments. In consultation with member States, new and revised recommendations and guidelines are being developed for publication in the IAEA's Nuclear Security Series. The first three were published during the year. Fourteen more are in various stages of development.

2. The Agency assists national efforts to enhance nuclear security through prevention measures — comprising both protection and risk reduction components — detection and response measures. The Agency helps member States to identify needs through evaluation missions that are based upon the relevant international legal instruments and Agency guidelines and recommendations. During the period covered by this report, the Agency has carried out, at the request of the member States involved, 31 missions of the International Nuclear Advisory Security Service, the International Physical Protection Advisory Service, the Radiation Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources Infrastructure Appraisal, and the State System for Material Accountancy and Control Advisory Service. These have provided invaluable inputs to developing integrated nuclear security support plans, which provide the basis for a comprehensive and sustainable approach to addressing specific national nuclear security needs. Thirty-two integrated nuclear security support plans have been drafted and are in various stages of implementation.

3. The Agency's capacity-building activities during the year included 51 international, regional and national security training courses with participants from 88 member and non-member States; the procurement of 760 pieces of detection and monitoring equipment for 19 States in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America; the

procurement of physical protection equipment to help 5 States to improve the security of their nuclear installations (including some nuclear power plants); and helping 5 States to improve the physical protection of locations containing high activity radioactive sources.

4. The secretariat assesses that these activities and upgrades have made a substantial contribution to enhancing nuclear security in member States. This heavy programme of training courses will continue over the next year; in excess of 50 training events are scheduled on the forward plan.

5. The Agency has also assisted in developing member States' capacity to respond to nuclear or radiological emergencies caused, inter alia, by a security event. A major contribution is the establishment of the IAEA Incident and Emergency Centre, which has given the Agency a 24/7 capacity to respond in a timely way to States' requests for assistance.

6. Risk reduction activities are an important component of the prevention strategy. Under the Tripartite Initiative, now completed, the Agency arranged for the safe and secure storage of a number of vulnerable high activity sources in the newly independent States. Elsewhere, the Agency arranged the recovery of more than 100 high activity and neutron sources in Africa, Central America, the Caribbean and Latin America. Take-back, conversion and de-commissioning activities, involving the Agency, are reducing the highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel inventories at research reactors. Four further take-back shipments of fresh HEU fuel are planned. The first return of Russian-origin spent HEU fuel took place during the period covered by this report.

7. The Agency continued to cooperate with other international and regional organizations. A Cooperation Agreement was concluded with Interpol, which will, inter alia, facilitate a cooperative project involving illicit trafficking data and its analysis. A second and then a third Joint Action were concluded with the European Union (EU), designed to secure nuclear and other radioactive materials, and to enhance detection and response capabilities, in States in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Middle East and Africa. Implementation is now proceeding apace.

8. The IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) has increased its membership, with 91 States now participating. Analysis of the ITDB data is providing valuable insights into patterns and trends in illicit trafficking, into threats and risks and into trafficking methods and routes. ITDB has the potential to provide indicators of vulnerabilities in control and protection systems and in detection and monitoring systems and technologies. These would be an important contribution to prioritization of activities. Efforts to expand the membership of ITDB and to increase the comprehensiveness of its data will continue.

9. Over 90 per cent of the funding for the implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan continues to be provided through extrabudgetary contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund. In 2005, financial donations were received from 13 member States, the EU and one non-governmental organization. In addition, in-kind contributions were received from a number of member States. Without such extrabudgetary assistance, the Agency's nuclear security programme would, in most aspects, cease to function. Sustained adequate funding for the Nuclear Security Plan 2006-2009 is not assured. There is no guarantee that the Plan can be fully implemented. The

Agency has developed some measures that will help prioritize activities, for example, improved analysis and feedback; but there are limits to what can be achieved. Furthermore, donors' requirements on the use of their funds and in-kind contributions remain. The Agency is working with donors to maximize, to the extent possible, its flexibility and ability to maintain an adequate balance in utilizing these resources.

10. Nuclear security is a cross-cutting activity. Synergies flow from cooperation and coordination with safety and safeguards-related work. Joint safety and security missions are undertaken to evaluate national laws and regulations for the control of sources; engineering safety design reduces the vulnerability of vital areas to sabotage; systems for accounting and control of nuclear material deter and/or allow early discovery of theft; physical protection measures and measures to detect illicit trafficking contribute to non-proliferation objectives; and a comprehensive approach is used to the legislative assistance programme that recognizes the importance of the interface between security, safety and safeguards.

11. The Agency has made substantial progress in developing its programme performance support system. The secretariat can now plan and monitor implementation and report on the large number of nuclear security projects, including to donor States on their individual contributions.

12. Improved coordination with donor States reduces the potential for overlaps and provides opportunities for work-sharing. Synergies are also being sought with other international organizations. These provide opportunities for coordination and work-sharing based on the recognition of competences and mutually compatible objectives.

International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]
[1 June 2007]

1. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) focuses on preventing unlawful interference in civil aviation and has no specific measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. However, the following ICAO activities relate to the fight against all acts of terrorism.

2. The Coordinated Assistance and Development Programme, established in February 2006, assists States in resolving deficiencies identified through the Universal Security Audit Programme of ICAO, and assists in the development of sustainable programmes that address new and emerging threats. The programme also fosters partnerships between States and other entities having aviation security expertise, the continued development of established aviation security expertise and the continued development of new training materials. Since 2006, 18 States and one regional entity have received assistance to address audit deficiencies and improve security infrastructure.

3. ICAO continues to develop and implement measures aimed at enhancing the security of travel documents. ICAO has set up a special project to assist those States that have not yet begun issuing machine readable passports to convert their systems to produce machine readable passports, with the objective of universal implementation ahead of the mandatory April 2010 deadline.

4. Pursuant to the views expressed by the G8 Roma Lyon Crime and Terrorism Group and the ministerial conference held in Tokyo in January 2006, an ICAO-wide aviation security point of contact network has been established for the communication of imminent threats to civil air transport operations. It provides for a network of international aviation security contacts in each State, who are designated as the appropriate authority to send and receive communications at all times on imminent threat information, urgent security requests, and/or guidelines to support security requirements to counter an imminent threat. To date, 81 ICAO Contracting States participate in the network.

5. The ICAO Council, during a special session held in August 2006, considered the threat to civil aviation operations posed by the alleged terrorist plot against civilian aircraft over the North Atlantic that would have involved the component parts of an improvised explosive device, including home-made liquid explosives for assembly airside, probably in the aircraft. Pursuant to the Council's decision, the Aviation Security Panel acknowledged the need for an urgent reassessment of the existing worldwide aviation security regime and recommended that the new threat be reflected in augmented global security practices and procedures. In this regard, the Panel identified the actions to be taken in the short, medium and longer-term. Consequently, the Council approved security control guidelines for screening liquids, gels, aerosols, etc., and recommended to States their implementation not later than 1 March 2007 as interim measures.

6. ICAO closely observes United Nations activities relating to counter-terrorism. In this connection, ICAO participates in the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. ICAO also participates in the United Nations work on disarmament to the extent that it relates to man-portable air defence systems, which were the subject of ICAO resolution A35-11 entitled "Threat to civil aviation posed by man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS)".

International Maritime Organization

[Original: English]
[16 May 2007]

1. Since the 1980s the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has developed international treaties, guidelines and recommendations on measures to prevent unlawful acts against passengers and crew on board ships.

2. Following the events of 11 September 2001, IMO introduced, in December 2002, special measures to enhance maritime security, which became mandatory on 1 July 2004 and apply to ships engaged in international voyages and the port facilities that serve them. These have been designed primarily to counter acts of terrorism and enable ships and port facilities to cooperate to detect and deter acts that threaten security in the maritime transport sector. In addition, in October 2005, the 1988 international treaties on the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation and against the safety of fixed platforms on the continental shelf, which are two of the 12 universal counter-terrorism conventions, were updated to reflect developments within the United Nations system.

3. States are able to obtain assistance and advice through the integrated technical cooperation programme that enable them to meet their obligations under the various international treaties. The regulatory and capacity-building work in the field of

counter-terrorism is conducted in cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and bodies, and other international organizations.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[16 May 2007]

1. Since the launch of its global project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in January 2003, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has provided specialized assistance to over 126 Member States in ratifying and implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism, either through country-specific "direct" assistance, or through the organization of subregional workshops. These activities have been undertaken in close coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

2. This has resulted in a notable increase in the number of ratifications of the universal legal instruments against terrorism, the elaboration of new or revised counter-terrorism legislation by several assisted countries and the awareness-raising and training of several thousand criminal justice officials in the assisted countries on the provisions and the practical application of the universal instruments against terrorism. They also sought to respond to the priorities set by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the requests for assistance received from Member States. When requested, assistance was also provided to some countries in the drafting of their reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

3. The scope of assistance provided by UNODC in the area of counter-terrorism has been broadening in terms of its geographical reach and the number of countries receiving assistance, but also in terms of the substantive content of the assistance provided. In this regard, special attention is given to assisting Member States with the ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, in accordance with resolution 2005/19 of the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions 60/43, 60/175 and 61/40, which recognized the role of the Terrorism Prevention Branch in assisting States in becoming parties to, and implementing, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and other recent legal instruments, including the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material of 1979, the Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.

4. Special reference needs to be made in this context to the regional workshop for Central Asia and Afghanistan on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which was organized by UNODC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 12 and 13 April 2007, in Tashkent. This workshop, attended by over 30 senior officials from Central Asian States and Afghanistan, aimed to familiarize participants with the international legal instruments related to terrorism, with a particular focus on those related to the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

B. Other international organizations

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

[Original: English]
[28 March 2007]

1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the legally binding ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism on 13 January 2007. Article VI (j) of the Convention obligates ASEAN member countries to strengthen capability and readiness to deal with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) terrorism, cyberterrorism and any new forms of terrorism.

2. ASEAN member countries also signed the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) in 1995. The Treaty came into force on 28 March 1997. The Commission established under provisions of the Treaty will meet in July 2007 to explore ways to implement the Treaty, particularly the application of International Atomic Energy Agency full scope safeguards.

3. The ASEAN Regional Forum convened a workshop on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in San Francisco from 13 to 15 February 2007. The workshop discussed, among other things, regional approaches towards building capacity to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), challenges in its implementation, including at the domestic level, and the need to foster dialogue and cooperation on non-proliferation.

International Criminal Police Organization

[Original: English]
[15 May 2007]

1. Terrorism poses a grave threat to individuals' lives and national security around the world. Interpol has therefore made available various resources to support member countries in their efforts to protect their citizens from terrorism.

2. In 2004, the Sloan Foundation provided a grant of US$ 943,000 to the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to initiate a programme to prevent biocrimes by strengthening law enforcement and training police. The programme started on 1 June 2004. The first phase of the programme focused on enhancing global attention on the threat of biocrimes and strengthening the global response to bioterrorism. In March 2005, the first Interpol global conference on preventing bioterrorism was held in Lyon, France, and was attended by more than 500 delegates from 155 countries, with representatives from the police, scientific and academic communities, and delegates from international and non-governmental organizations.

3. The programme has moved forward with the development of training materials that introduce concepts and techniques to improve detection and interdiction of bioterrorism schemes; the introduction and initiation of a "train the trainers" project to formulate training capabilities on bioterrorism issues; the development of the Bioterrorism Resource Centre to provide member countries with a central point to find links to valid and useful bioterrorism-related websites; the publication of the *Bioterrorism Incident Pre-planning and Response Guide*; and a series of regional workshops whose purpose was to stimulate the development of national prevention

and response efforts, and encourage national, regional and international cooperation between stakeholders.

4. The second phase of the programme started on 1 August 2006. This phase is composed of two major pillars: bioterrorism prevention and biocriminalization. An informal board of experts has been formed to analyse and recommend methods for improving and implementing Interpol's bioterrorism activities. The database of the biocriminalization project, launched in September 2006, is an initiative in Interpol's bioterrorism prevention programme.

5. Project CRIT (cooperative radiological instrument transfer) aims to enhance the capacity of member countries to fight the threat of global radiological terrorism through the development and delivery of training in the use of radiation detection instrumentation. Phase I of the project was inaugurated in June 2004. To date, more than 300 instruments have been distributed and over 500 law enforcement officers trained in 13 countries.

6. With proper funding and international support, Interpol would be able to better coordinate its chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear efforts by developing a dedicated unit within its General Secretariat to provide training, expert advice and operational support for all 186 member States.

League of Arab States

[Original: Arabic]
[16 July 2007]

1. The General Secretariat circulated United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/83 of 22 November 2002 on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction to member States. The Council of the League also adopted resolutions, at the summit level, at the ministerial level and at the level of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice, its executive office and the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, on international terrorism and means of combating it, in which it called upon Arab States to adopt the necessary measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction in implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the matter, as was also stipulated in the Riyadh Declaration adopted at the International Conference to Combat Terrorism, held in Riyadh from 5 to 8 February 2005 and the Arab Regional Seminar on Combating Terrorism, held in Cairo on 16 and 17 February 2005.

2. The group of Arab experts was invited to hold meetings at the General Secretariat headquarters in order to follow up on implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, which contained special measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, including monitoring borders, detecting the movement of terrorists, preventing illicit traffic in nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons and materials, and to identify the needs of the Arab States for technical assistance in this regard.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

[Original: English]
[16 May 2007]

1. The Comprehensive Political Guidance, endorsed at the Riga summit in 2005 by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Heads of State and Government, provides guidelines for the continuing transformation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It recognizes that in today's evolving security environment and for the foreseeable future, the principal threats to the Alliance are international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as challenges from instability due to failed or failing States, regional crises, misuse of new technologies and the disruption of the flow of vital resources.

2. NATO's Policy Framework is stipulated in the Alliance Strategic Concept of 1999. The Alliance will enhance its political efforts to reduce dangers arising from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The principal goal of the Alliance and its member States remains to prevent proliferation from occurring or, should it occur, to reverse it through diplomatic means.

3. The Alliance will continue to follow the broad approach to security of the Strategic Concept of 1999 and perform the fundamental security tasks it sets out, namely security, consultation, deterrence and defence, crises management and partnership.

4. Allies strongly condemn terrorism, whatever its motivations or manifestations, and will fight it together as long as necessary, in accordance with international law and United Nations principles. The Alliance continues to provide an essential transatlantic dimension to the response against terrorism. Allies remain committed to dialogue and cooperation with partners and other international organizations to fight terrorism and reiterate their determination to protect allies, populations, territories, infrastructure and forces against the consequences of terrorism attacks.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

[Original: English]
[15 May 2007]

1. Member States of the United Nations resolved, in the annex to General Assembly resolution 60/288 dated 8 September 2006, to "encourage the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to continue their efforts, within their respective mandates, in helping States to build capacity to prevent terrorists from accessing nuclear, chemical or radiological materials, to ensure security at related facilities and to respond effectively in the event of an attack using such materials".

2. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an active member of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and through it has supported a number of initiatives aimed at tackling the global threats posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction.

3. OPCW, encouraged by this explicit recognition by the United Nations, continues the implementation of its mandate as defined by the Chemical Weapons Convention. The contribution of OPCW has been confirmed by the General

Assembly in paragraph 3 of its resolution 61/68, entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction", in which it stresses that "the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection against chemical weapons (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

Organization of American States

[Original: English]
[16 May 2007]

1. The Organization of American States (OAS) maintains its position against the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction, as set out in several resolutions adopted by the OAS General Assembly. The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism likewise recognized the threat posed by terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction, and member States have repeatedly declared their commitment to preventing the possibility of access to and possession, transport and use of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and their vectors in the hands of terrorists, and to developing and adopting cooperative programmes.

2. In June 2005, the OAS General Assembly, in paragraph 5 of its resolution AG/RES. 2107 (XXXV-O/05) urged member States to implement their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), to take and enforce without delay effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials, and to refrain from providing support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Further, in paragraph 6 of the resolution, it encouraged those States in a position to do so to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests from member States lacking sufficient legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the resolution or Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

3. At the sixth regular session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (Bogota, Colombia, 22 to 24 March 2006), the Secretariat was instructed to convene a meeting of key science administrators in the region to schedule a briefing by representatives of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on its repercussions for science administrators working on fundamental issues of security, in order to start a process of effective implementation and coherent application of these practices throughout the hemisphere. In furtherance of the mandate of the Inter-American Committee to hold a meeting of key science administrators, the Committee Secretariat is currently engaged in discussions with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs aimed at having a joint event in each of the subregions of the Americas on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), in an effort to maximize resources and harmonize agendas.

4. Additionally, as part of its ongoing cooperation with other international organizations, the Committee Secretariat is collaborating with the efforts of the

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean on the control of chemical and biological materials in member States.

5. The Committee on Hemispheric Security of the OAS Permanent Council held a meeting on 11 December 2006, on the theme "Combating proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their vector systems and related materials", in compliance with OAS General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06) and AG/RES. 2107 (XXXV-O/05), which call for compliance with the commitment of member States to convert the Americas into a region free of biological and chemical weapons. The delegations noted that the Committee on Hemispheric Security has an important role as a coordination forum to support implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

World Customs Organization

[Original: English]
[15 May 2007]

1. In response to the international concern and in Member administrations' interests, the World Customs Organization (WCO) launched a special enforcement programme in 1993 in the field of combating nuclear and other radioactive material smuggling. The objective of the programme was to assist Member administrations to enhance their enforcement capabilities for preventing, detecting and responding to illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. The WCO Council adopted the Recommendation concerning action against illicit cross-border movement of nuclear and hazardous material in June 1997 in order to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information and intelligence among its members.

2. WCO collaborated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the European Police Office (Europol) and Interpol in the production of technical documents on preventing, detecting and responding to illicit trafficking of radioactive material. Again, in cooperation with IAEA, WCO has jointly sponsored a series of international training courses aimed at raising awareness of the problems associated with illicit trafficking in radioactive material and providing participants with basic information on radiation safety, detection and response methods. Working relations between WCO and IAEA resulted in the establishment of a memorandum of understanding in May 1998.

3. As part of the enforcement programme, WCO developed an enforcement communication and cooperation instrument known as the Customs Enforcement Network in 2000. It is a global enforcement system to support and enhance the fight of Customs against transnational organized crime. It allows members to communicate and exchange information electronically in an encrypted manner.

4. As part of a comprehensive package of security and facilitation, an electronic databank on advanced technology was developed by the WCO Task Force on Security and Facilitation of the International Trade Supply Chain.

5. In June 2003 the WCO Council approved the new International Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, known as the Johannesburg Convention. This instrument covers all Customs offences, including the illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

6. WCO adopted the 2002 resolution aimed at preventing the supply chain being used for illegal purposes, such as smuggling weapons of mass destruction or their component parts. The WCO joint industry-Customs task force has produced guidelines on integrated border management.

7. In June 2006 the WCO Council approved a document on so-called Authorized Economic Operators as part of the SAFE Framework of Standards.

8. All of the above initiatives aim to increase security and facilitate legitimate trade. Increased security will help to ensure the integrity of the international supply chain and prevent its being used by terrorists to deliver weapons of mass destruction or otherwise promote criminal activity.

United Nations A/62/157

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 64 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: the Millennium Development Goals and synergies with other United Nations disability instruments

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 60/131 requesting the Secretary-General to submit a report on the global implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, with respect to overall efforts being made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, also including possible options to improve the complementarity and synergy in the implementation of the World Programme of Action and other United Nations disability mechanisms and instruments, taking into account the strengths and main elements of the World Programme of Action as well as its important role in providing policy guidelines for States. The report focuses on activities that have occurred since the previous progress report, submitted to the sixtieth session of the Assembly, and is based on the activities and suggestions of 16 Governments and of seven agencies, programmes and funds and four regional commissions of the United Nations.

* A/62/150.

07-44128 (E) 220807

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–3	3
II.	Overview of United Nations disability mechanisms and instruments	4–7	3
III.	Integration of disability issues in development efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals	8–47	5
	A. Integrating disability into Goal 1: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger	19–27	7
	B. Integrating disability into Goal 2: achieving universal primary education	28–34	9
	C. Integrating disability into Goal 3: promoting gender equality and empowering women	35	11
	D. Integrating disability into Goal 4: reducing child mortality	36–37	11
	E. Integrating disability into Goal 5: improving maternal health	38–40	11
	F. Integrating disability into Goal 6: combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	41–42	11
	G. Integrating disability into Goal 7: ensuring environmental sustainability	43–44	12
	H. Integrating disability into Goal 8: developing a global partnership for development	45–47	12
IV.	Options to improve complementarity and synergy in implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and other United Nations disability mechanisms	48–59	13
V.	Recommendations and conclusions	60–64	14

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/131, the present report presents an overview of the integration of disability issues in development efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the first and second goals; an overview of the three main United Nations disability mechanisms and instruments, namely the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[1] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[2] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[3] and a review of options to improve the complementarity and synergy in the implementation of the three disability instruments. It will conclude with a set of recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

2. Sixteen Member States contributed to the report: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. Contributions were also received from seven specialized agencies, programmes and funds: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank; and from four regional commissions: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

3. The report is organized as follows: section II presents a brief overview of the current international instruments on disability, followed by section III which presents a more detailed analysis of how those mechanisms and instruments can relate to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Each of the eight goals will be reviewed for its impact on, and relevance to, persons with disabilities. In section IV of the report, some policy options are provided to improve the complementarity of the main instruments.

II. Overview of United Nations disability mechanisms and instruments

4. The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in December 1982, provided the international community with a comprehensive policy framework to enhance the prevention of disability, the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and the realization of the goals of full participation of persons with disabilities in social life and national development and of equality. The World Programme of Action represented a significant move away from the traditional approach that focused solely on rehabilitation in response to the

[1] Resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action as set forth in A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, section VIII, recommendation I (IV).

[2] Resolution 48/96, annex.

[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

needs of persons with disabilities. It was the first international instrument to attempt to articulate both a developmental and a rights-based approach to disability. The Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the World Programme of Action. The World Programme of Action establishes that the monitoring and evaluation of progress made be carried out at periodic intervals at the international and regional levels, as well as at the national level. Evaluation indicators of the World Programme of Action should be selected by the United Nations in consultation with Member States and relevant United Nations agencies and other organizations.[4]

5. The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the Assembly in December 1993, drew on the experience gained during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). The Standard Rules comprise 22 rules that address all aspects of life of persons with disabilities and provide for a continuum of interventions that are critical to the equalization of opportunities for all persons with disabilities. Since their adoption, the Standard Rules have played a significant role in informing the elaboration of national policies and practices on disability throughout the world. It is widely agreed that the application of the principles expressed in the Standard Rules has greatly contributed to the dissemination of best practices on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development prepares a yearly report on the Standard Rules. Upon renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in 2005, the Commission on Social Development requested the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission a report on the monitoring of implementation of the Standard Rules on an annual basis instead of every two years as previously mandated.[5] The Assembly has yet to decide on the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules, contained in the annex to the third monitoring report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development (see E/CN.5/2002/4).

6. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2006, was developed as a result of the recognition that, despite gains since the adoption of the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, much work still remained to be done to effectively promote full and effective participation of and opportunities for persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life (see General Assembly resolution 56/168). The Convention opened for signature on 30 March 2007. As of 12 July 2007, a total of 100 States had signed the Convention, and 55 had signed the Optional Protocol.[6] One State, Jamaica, had ratified the Convention. States Parties will submit reports on the implementation of the Convention to the Committee on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. Article 38 of the Convention establishes that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies to provide expert advice on implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates.

7. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities aims at promoting further the inclusive approach to development which was elaborated in the World Programme of Action, and re-emphasized by the World Summit for Social

[4] See A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, section VIII, recommendation I (IV), para. 194.

[5] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/9.

[6] Resolution 61/106, annex II.

Development in Copenhagen and of bringing disability issues into the mainstream of the development agenda. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the only one of the three instruments that is legally binding for its States Parties.

III. Integration of disability issues in development efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

8. Many Member States and United Nations agencies, programmes and funds as well as the regional commissions have committed themselves to programmes and policies aimed at ensuring the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities, a sign of the growing recognition that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in all development efforts and without making existing projects accessible to persons with disabilities.

9. The present report focuses primarily on the first two goals, namely eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and achieving universal primary education as, in general, initiatives pertaining to disability and the other goals are scanty or at an early stage of implementation. The first two goals are fundamental and prominent in the lives of many persons with disabilities. There is a strong bidirectional link between poverty and disability: poverty may cause disability through, among others, precarious living conditions, inadequate health care and malnutrition, while disability causes poverty when persons with disabilities are excluded from full participation in the social and economic activities of their communities. A strong link also exists between disability and education. Estimates indicate that approximately 40 million of the 115 million children out of school have a disability and that the majority of children with disabilities worldwide are not in school. Thus, in order to attain the goal of universal primary education, all children must be included.

10. Emergency situations arising from natural disasters and conflict may provide particular challenges for persons with disabilities in accessing the required humanitarian assistance. Even natural seasonal variations such as monsoons and rainy seasons can cause pathways that are accessible during dry seasons to become impassable for persons with limited mobility and users of wheelchairs. In the case of conflict situations, there is a need for attention to the role of arms in creating disability.

Mainstreaming

11. Promoting the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities into the wider development agenda is an important element in attaining recognition of those rights. There is a general dearth of knowledge of disability issues among the development partners, evidenced by the absence of a disability perspective in most development endeavours. The World Programme of Action was adopted 25 years ago, promoting the link between disability and development. Despite its important contributions, implementation of its tenets has been lagging. Evidence of this can be seen in information from the World Bank that reports that during the fiscal years 2002-2006 only 5 per cent of new lending commitments had a disability component. This points to a strong need for awareness-raising, the formulation of guidelines,

increased budget allocations for disability issues and the capacity-building of all relevant development actors. The implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities intends to address those needs, building on the strengths and successes achieved by the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules. The expertise of United Nations agencies and programmes is also a potentially valuable resource to develop and promote the mainstreaming of disability issues across all sectors. It was also suggested that mainstreaming efforts should still allow for the vital role of disability-specific initiatives in speeding up the process.

12. It is now widely recognized that gender and HIV/AIDS are cross-cutting themes to be taken into account in all endeavours. There is an opportunity to learn from those examples when promoting disability as a similarly cross-cutting theme and to develop programming that effectively addresses all such issues.

Actions at the national level

13. One of the ways in which several countries are dealing with disability at a national level is the establishment of a national disability focal point office that guides the inclusion of disability across sectors, staffed at least in part by persons with disabilities. Such offices allow the centralization of all disability-related knowledge and programmes, while at the same time employing staff dedicated to promoting and supporting the implementation of mainstreaming across public, private and non-governmental sectors. National offices can also be well placed to oversee the implementation of the tenets of the World Programme of Action and the obligations of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, within the framework of a nationally formulated strategic action plan. Furthermore, the offices may be able to liaise with international donors to ensure that development activities respect the needs and rights of persons with disabilities. Specific disability focal point offices are generally more effective when they are given the task of coordinating the mainstreaming of disability issues across the public administration and are provided with the authority and resources to do so.

14. Many countries have established a government commission for persons with disabilities. The commissions are frequently responsible for monitoring the application of existing disability-related legislation, proposing recommended amendments to the Government, overseeing the implementation of the national strategy and cooperating with civil society organizations working in the field of disability. They also make recommendations on ways to improve existing activities aimed at the protection of persons with disabilities and the realization of their rights, and arrange for the translation of all relevant international documents in text, audio format or Braille.

15. The marginalization of persons with disabilities still arises in large part from biased attitudes and a lack of awareness and knowledge rather than from a lack of economic resources alone, yet persons with disabilities remain among the most vulnerable and marginalized. Though some interventions require significant financial investment, there are several proactive measures that do not entail a large investment of monetary resources but are very effective. Thus, well-planned policy and programmatic changes could result in substantial benefits, even without large financial investments. Key areas for policy change include employment, social security systems and anti-discrimination legislation. Awareness-raising and training programmes for the general public are examples of interventions that may be

pursued with a low level of monetary investment. Another low-cost possibility for raising awareness is to give recognition to socially responsible companies that offer products and services for, and inclusive of, persons with disabilities. Locally manufactured adaptive equipment can create low-cost options that enhance the integration of persons with disabilities into the community. Public transportation systems can be made more accessible if transport operators call out the names of stops, thus allowing blind persons more independence. The production of emergency plans and important national and international documents can be produced in Braille without great expense. Consultation with local organizations of persons with disabilities may be helpful in identifying relevant low-cost options that increase the inclusiveness of specific environments.

"Nothing about us without us"

16. Support needs to be given to the collective voice and capacity of persons with disabilities in order to channel their legitimate claims into planning and decision-making processes. Relevant organizations of persons with disabilities may be important potential partners in policymaking and programme implementation at the local, national, regional and international levels. Supporting local non-governmental organizations that then provide services for persons with disabilities, and providing them with technical assistance are examples of that practice. Such organizations may be effective partners to mobilize civil society participation in various sector programmes and may be potentially effective in advocacy roles, in cooperation with national, regional and international institutions, as well as with independent experts. Several States and agencies and programmes of the United Nations have highlighted the importance of ensuring the inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities in all programming, a group often marginalized even within the disability community itself.

Data collection

17. The current lack of statistical data regarding persons with disabilities creates difficulties in effectively and accurately planning programmes and creating policies. Options to increase the sources and quality of data on disability include the addition of questions to national census questionnaires, the creation of more detailed subnational surveys and the provision of training for statisticians on disability-related data collection.

18. In the following review, reference will be made to the countries that have provided specific examples of Millennium Development Goal initiatives that pertain to persons with disabilities.

A. Integrating disability into Goal 1: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger

19. Persons with disabilities experience higher rates of poverty than do persons without disabilities. In order to begin to reverse this trend, both Costa Rica and Hungary emphasized ensuring full access to and participation in the open labour market. Costa Rica suggested that labour policies that concern persons with disabilities should be under the domain of the Ministry of Labour, and not addressed haphazardly by special education services. In the Philippines, the Department of

Labour and Employment implements programmes that provide training and facilitate access to capital for entrepreneurial endeavours for persons with disabilities.

20. South Africa noted that national policy frameworks can encourage increased access to the open labour market for persons with disabilities in many ways and that cooperation and implementation are possible within both the private and public sectors.

21. Various measures exist by which the workplace can be made more inclusive. Development of mandatory workplace safety procedures and policies for all places of employment may be a cost-effective way of reducing the incidence of workplace injuries. Employment policies that encourage or mandate employers to provide reasonable accommodation for all workers may also lead to low-cost solutions that open the workplace to persons with disabilities.

22. Social support services, safety nets and subsidies are additional options for the promotion of an inclusive employment environment. Institution of those measures may encourage independence and integration in the community for persons with disabilities without fostering dependence on the State. In Tunisia, the level of tax paid by employers for their employees with disabilities is reduced as a form of incentive. Mandatory preferential or affirmative action quotas for the public and/or private sector are in place in a number of States, as another option to stimulate the employment of persons with disabilities. Support provided for caregivers of persons with disabilities can allow caregivers the time to continue working in paid employment and thus provide increased financial stability for the family unit.

23. Appropriate professional and vocational training can be utilized to create a closer match between the human resource requirements of industry and the skills of workers with disabilities, particularly for higher-growth sectors of the economy. In Azerbaijan, extensive testing is used to measure and match the abilities of job seekers with disabilities with appropriate vacancies, and national legislation guarantees free vocational training and retraining to job seekers with disabilities.

24. Innovative economic and entrepreneurial opportunities could benefit national economic growth as well as individual household wealth. Telecommuting and e-commerce opportunities via the Internet may offer more flexible and accessible methods of income generation for persons both with and without disabilities. Bangladesh and Portugal, among others, support microcredit programmes targeted at persons with disabilities. Microcredit schemes may provide important sources of income generation, in particular for those persons who are part of the informal economy. Though such schemes are often present within development initiatives, persons with disabilities are regularly excluded from participation. Business opportunities that support the needs of persons with disabilities may be especially beneficial, including, for example, projects that encourage the manufacture and distribution of assistive devices and those that increase the accessibility of a community.

25. The International Labour Organization is a potential source of information on initiatives that encourage the full labour-market participation of persons with disabilities. In Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, ILO field-tested training and information packages for private-sector businesses to assist them in their efforts to hire employees with disabilities. In Sri Lanka, an online national clearinghouse was

developed that provides referrals for jobs and training, information, advice and career guidance for job seekers. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in that database was promoted via radio campaigns. ILO also has supported the promotion of participation of persons with disabilities in the informal economy by means of training in relevant sectors, such as handicrafts and music, in Cambodia, Mongolia, Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

26. An estimated 160 million rural poor have disabilities, most of them farmers who are responsible for the food security of their households. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has expertise in responding to the needs of that population, including projects such as the following: income generation and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in agricultural-related sectors; the adaptation of agricultural production technologies to meet the requirements of workers with disabilities; the fostering of accident prevention in agricultural and forestry industries; and the elimination of nutrition-related disabilities through improved dietary practices and food security interventions. FAO also supports projects aimed at policy formulation and awareness-building. It further supports the promotion of self-help rural livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities, building individuals' self-esteem as rural entrepreneurs. An online database on the rural disabled is also maintained by FAO and may serve as a useful resource.

27. There is wide recognition that persons with disabilities experience a particularly high level of food insecurity in emergency contexts. Inclusive emergency response and post-emergency programming would contain mechanisms that take into account the existence and needs of persons with disabilities. Ireland, among other States, supports programmes to remove landmines, which often prevent arable land from being cultivated long after conflicts have ceased.

B. Integrating disability into Goal 2: achieving universal primary education

28. An estimated 98 per cent of children with disabilities worldwide do not attend school. Educational facilities are often inaccessible, and teachers may lack the training to provide appropriate education for their students with disabilities. Those conditions often result in the exclusion of children and youth with disabilities from education. A basic starting point for universal primary education would be to ensure that all educational facilities, physical and Internet-based, are made accessible. Costa Rica and Saudi Arabia suggested that efforts be directed towards the implementation of mandatory elementary education systems in which all children with disabilities are included and integrated. Tunisia noted the importance of providing early preschool education to children with disabilities in order to increase their chances of success once they enter regular school. Through a project in the Philippines entitled "Continuing Education without Barriers", day-care centres in a number of regions are being equipped with special facilities in order to include children with disabilities. In Qatar, the Ministry of Education has a long history of training and educating persons with disabilities, with the goal of promoting their social and economic integration. The Ministry also advocates the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to education. Legislation in Qatar supports persons with disabilities, and the number of students with disabilities in the regular school system is increasing.

29. Social inclusion is an important factor in ensuring that persons with disabilities are integrated as members of the community. This integration is particularly relevant within the context of school-age-children, when individuals' sense of self-esteem and self-worth is largely formed. Programmes have been implemented that familiarize children with the needs and abilities of persons with disabilities and encourage the integration of children with disabilities within regular classrooms.

30. Flexible and innovative approaches to education may be required to reach children with disabilities, such as access to educational institutions and opportunities via the Internet or radio. Tunisia has experience with such distance education and offers educational opportunities through the "Virtual School", a project targeted at, among others, persons with disabilities with reduced mobility. Tunisia also supports the use of computer programmes and computer touch screens to aid the learning process of persons with motor, intellectual and sensory disabilities, with the aim of full inclusion of such persons within the educational system. In emergency contexts, UNHCR has sponsored teacher training to facilitate the integration of children with disabilities into regular schools within refugee camps.

31. Transport to educational facilities often poses a major barrier for children with disabilities, and many countries, including Tunisia, provide support for certain transportation services to educational facilities.

32. Educational systems may benefit from national education policy that includes budgetary support along with clear guidelines on how children with disabilities will be provided the support they require in order to function within the educational system and how the educational system will be adapted to meet those requirements. A recent report by the Special Rapporteur on the right to education provided a framework for promoting inclusive education as a human right for persons with disabilities (see A/HRC/4/29).

33. UNICEF has served as source of information on educational policy, and actively promotes policy changes in the following areas: awareness-raising in schools and communities on the rights of children with disabilities to education; improving school accessibility; training parents, teachers and community workers to assess a child's needs and to plan support accordingly; building teachers' competence to teach children with varying needs and capacities; promoting the introduction of flexible curricula; and supporting the expansion of early learning programmes and preschools that meet the needs of children with disabilities.

34. Within university systems, curricula can be adapted for all relevant professions to ensure that graduates have the skills and awareness to competently include persons with disabilities within their area of expertise. In Croatia, for example, university curricula now include lectures about children with disabilities in the undergraduate studies of teachers and psychologists. Several other institutions of higher learning are training professionals to work with children and adults with disabilities. The Government of Croatia also provided financial support to non-governmental organizations to conduct advanced training of teachers and other experts for working with children with disabilities.

C. Integrating disability into Goal 3: promoting gender equity and empowering women

35. South Africa includes women with disabilities in its economic empowerment projects for women and offers special additions to housing grants for persons with disabilities, including single women with dependants. However, the representation of women in important decision-making bodies lags far behind that of men in most countries, and women with disabilities are almost absent.

D. Integrating disability into Goal 4: reducing child mortality

36. The reduction of child mortality is a goal of particular relevance to persons with disabilities, especially in societies where infants born with disabilities may be killed or where children with disabilities are ignored and hidden by families and therefore not given proper health care or opportunities to exercise outdoors.

37. The provision of quality primary health-care services is of great importance in reducing child mortality; many Member States offer such services free of charge.

E. Integrating disability into Goal 5: improving maternal health

38. The improvement of maternal health could help prevent certain disabilities, and the special health concerns of pregnant and lactating women with various types of disabilities is an area largely ignored within the medical and development community. Additionally, in many societies there exist taboos and widespread prejudice against persons with disabilities exercising and enjoying their right to marry and found a family.

39. Among others, South Africa and Tunisia provide free care to qualifying persons with disabilities, including mothers with disabilities. Bangladesh is working towards introducing appropriate infrastructure in hospitals to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully benefit from the services provided.

40. The provision of appropriate assistive devices can allow for the highest level of independence possible for persons with disabilities.

F. Integrating disability into Goal 6: combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

41. The socio-economic toll caused by HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases is shared by persons with disabilities. However, large gaps remain in the provision of information on prevention and on health-care education in accessible formats. The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities has launched the Africa Campaign on Disability and HIV/AIDS, which aims to fill some of the gaps that exist in this important area.

42. South Africa has mainstreamed disability into the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), with the hope that persons with HIV/AIDS who develop disabilities as a result can receive appropriate recognition of their need for support

services, that HIV/AIDS programmes reach persons with disabilities and that HIV/AIDS statistics include information on persons with disabilities.

G. Integrating disability into Goal 7: ensuring environmental sustainability

43. Questions of environmental sustainability may be particularly relevant for persons with disabilities, who tend to be among the most vulnerable and who have little flexibility to absorb change. Persons with disabilities living in poverty may not be able to benefit from available sources of safe drinking water owing to a lack of physical access to water sources. In the context of urban slums, persons with disabilities may experience multiple accessibility obstacles within the built and natural environment.

44. Denmark recognized that improving access to and use of the domestic water cycle could assist in restoring the social integration and dignity of persons with disabilities. Improved access could reduce the burden of personal care placed on family members and release valuable time, enabling persons with disabilities and their families to apply more effort to improving income and reducing poverty. The building of accessible public and private latrines in rural and urban environments is an important element of improved sanitation and personal independence.

H. Integrating disability into Goal 8: developing a global partnership for development

45. Persons with disabilities have been glaringly absent from many initiatives of the growing global partnership for development, and little data exists on the links between development and disability or the situation of persons with disabilities vis-à-vis the Millennium Development Goals. One example of such a partnership is between the Philippines, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which has resulted in programmes for persons with disabilities and the extension of loans for related programmes. The Philippines recommended more direct links and networks between Member States and the United Nations regional commissions' work on development. It is necessary to begin filling the gaps that exist in Millennium Development Goal initiatives with respect to disability. Within the context of global partnerships, Hungary highlighted the need to support civil society organizations in their lobbying activities and in their efforts at improving the status of persons with disabilities.

Actions at the regional level

46. Regional cooperation and plans of action may be beneficial to efforts to maximize resources and profit from shared knowledge and experience. The presence of national disability focal point offices in individual countries may facilitate such cooperation and communication. Regional cooperation may take many forms, such as the creation of regional secretariats for disability; regional initiatives for celebration of the International Day of Disabled Persons; gathering statistical data, which may be more financially feasible with shared human and capital resources; the development and creation of training and awareness programmes with regional specificity; and study tours and conferences to share experience and knowledge.

47. Several regions are implementing decades of persons with disabilities. The decades can provide useful guidance and expertise in the formulation of national action plans, especially through the sharing of good practices and the promotion of dialogue at the subregional and regional levels. The African Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2000-2009, has been active in creating national decade steering committees with the task of implementing the Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities. The Arab Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, focuses on 10 objectives: education; health; legislation; rehabilitation and employment; the disabled woman; the disabled child; accessibility and transport; globalization, poverty and disability; information and awareness; and recreation and sports. The second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, has organized a series of events which build on the Biwako millennium framework for action towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, an action plan from 2002 highlighting the links between poverty and disability. The most recently adopted decade, the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, was adopted for the period 2006-2016 and includes an agreed action plan for implementation.

IV. Options to improve complementarity and synergy in implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and other United Nations disability mechanisms

48. With the recent adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there are now three major United Nations disability instruments (the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). Therefore, there is a need to improve synergy, reduce duplication and maximize judicious and efficient use of resources among the mechanisms.

49. Presently, each of the three disability instruments has different reporting lines to document progress on implementation. This may lead to a waste of resources of both Member States and the United Nations in reporting on disability-related activities, and could contribute to the lack of a centralized source for related information. Furthermore, determining which disability-related activities should be attributed to a particular disability instrument is often an arbitrary distinction, particularly as all three instruments call upon Governments to adhere to many of the same general principles.

50. As part of the preparation of the present report, Member States were asked to provide their views on how to increase the synergy and complementarity of the World Programme of Action with the other United Nations disability mechanisms. Their suggestions acknowledged the historical importance of all instruments and offered solutions to increase synergy at both the national and international levels.

51. Spain suggested that, as a first step towards synergizing the three disability instruments, the United Nations Secretariat could prepare a non-paper that

highlighted the complementarities among the instruments. That document would then serve as a basis to inform future steps.

52. The Philippines noted that it might be helpful for the United Nations to provide the impetus and guidance on ways to harmonize the implementation of the three instruments, with a view to ensuring that the comparative advantage and value of each instrument would be harnessed.

53. Costa Rica stated that, as many of the points within the World Programme of Action are still relevant today, the World Programme of Action could be updated using the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a basis.

54. There remains an outstanding issue regarding the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules, as described above in paragraph 5. The proposed supplement could be addressed as part of efforts to improve complementarity between instruments.

55. Finland stated that from the perspective of the Member States, one single monitoring and reporting mechanism for all disability instruments is preferable. Finland also suggested that National Action Programmes on disability could be developed that include the guidance provided by all United Nations disability instruments but focus explicitly on implementation of the articles of the Convention.

56. Finland noted that the role of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on disability could be expanded to include raising awareness of the Convention and assistance to Member States on its implementation.

57. Costa Rica stated that the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities could be made responsible for monitoring the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, in addition to the Convention. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should clearly establish the format of country reports, in particular, defining indicators to be measured, to facilitate the ease of reporting for countries.

58. Finland noted that the Standard Rules should be evaluated to determine whether they are still required. If they are deemed necessary, they should be revised to serve as a supplement to the Convention.

59. With respect to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, the Syrian Arab Republic noted the importance of using the Fund's resources to support activities from civil society organizations in the least developed and developing countries, while the Philippines highlighted the potential of using the Fund to assist countries in fulfilling their commitments under the World Programme of Action.

V. Recommendations and conclusions

60. **The recent adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities represents a crucial opportunity to consolidate disability-related activities within the United Nations system. A first step towards that consolidation may be the examination of options to improve the complementarity and synergy of the three main disability instruments. Expedient decisions would reduce the inefficient use of resources available to achieve the goals espoused in the three instruments. The General Assembly may wish to make this issue a priority to be considered during its sixty-third session.**

61. **A possible solution to streamlining the reporting mechanisms is to consolidate the reporting into one comprehensive, issue-based report on disability and development, rather than the current instrument-based reporting system. Such a report could focus on the progress of integration and inclusion of disability in development efforts, and could include the spirit and tenets of all three United Nations disability instruments, with an explicit focus on the Convention, owing to its legally binding nature. The role of the Special Rapporteur might then be re-examined, and could be redefined to include all disability-related actions, with a focus on implementation of the Convention.**

62. **The United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability is currently functioning under a mandate that dates from 1981. In view of the adoption of the Convention and given the need of a more unified approach among the United Nations disability instruments, a review and update of its mandate could enable the Fund to be more responsive to present day realities. The review and update could be addressed as part of efforts to improve complementarity between instruments.**

63. **The three United Nations disability instruments reflect the evolution of language and thought surrounding disability issues, and the nomenclature used in the Convention represents currently accepted practices. The term "persons with disabilities", which places the emphasis on the person, is now widely considered preferable to "disabled persons". The General Assembly may wish to consider promoting the harmonization and updating of language used for disability within the United Nations system. The updating of the term should include the event currently entitled "International Day of Disabled Persons".**

64. **The major disability instruments represent Member States' strong commitment to promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities in the context of development. Differences in emphasis and approach exist, but the basic commitment is widespread. Significant progress towards the goal of fully inclusive societies is attainable with strong political will and States' commitment, working in cooperation with the United Nations system and civil society. There is a growing body of experience from which to draw guidance on concrete measures to integrate disability into efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals. The General Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to make the integration of disability a fundamental principle of existing and future development assistance programmes.**